



CENSUS

2000

THE BASICS

FOCUS ON TUCSON
JULY 2002

CENSUS 2000: THE BASICS

Focus on Tucson *July 2002*

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CENSUS 2000:



THE BASICS

ABOUT THE CENSUS

The Constitution mandates that the Census count be taken in order to apportion the seats in the House of Representatives according to state population. Therefore, the country's population has been enumerated each decade since 1790. The latest Census was conducted in April of 2000, and the results comprise the nation's twenty-second Decennial Census.

The Census also serves a broader purpose. It provides an opportunity to gather facts about the United States and its communities, so we can better judge what to do and how to do it. We are a free and mobile people, and we live in a nation where significant changes can occur rapidly over just a few years, or so slowly that they might go unnoticed if they were not measured over time.

Census questions are changed periodically to reflect changes in society and to measure emerging trends. The questions are designed to strike a balance between the individual's right to privacy and our Nation's need for self-understanding.

WHAT DOES CENSUS DATA DO FOR US?

Census data provides facts about our community. So what? After all, most of us already have an idea about what parts of our City have been growing, what parts have high and low incomes, what parts are more and less culturally diverse, and so on. The value of the Census data comes to us in the following ways:

- **It challenges our assumptions.** We form assumptions about areas based on things such as what the homes and businesses in the neighborhoods look like, and what we hear in the media. Having hard data forces us to reevaluate what we think we know about different parts of our community.
- **It shows how areas are different.** This helps local governments, non-profits, and businesses determine what services are appropriate for different areas.
- **It provides data that are otherwise difficult or impossible to get.** Aside from using Census data, we have no efficient way to find out, on a local level, many things about our community. Examples include details about household relationships, how often people move to new homes, and how many homes have incomplete plumbing.
- **It shows how things have changed.** It is important for businesses and service providers to be able to determine whether their services have had a positive impact, and whether areas have changed in such a way that new or different services are needed.
- **It helps us plan for the future.** When we look at Census data from previous decades, patterns begin to emerge. Long-term patterns give us an idea of what changes to expect in the future, so we can plan for them.

TUCSON: CENTURIES OF CHANGE

THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Tucson has experienced a progression of human residents over many centuries. The history of early human occupation near the site of Tucson is vaguely understood. It is known that some of the earliest inhabitants of the Southwest hunted mammoth south of Tucson about 12,000 years ago. Recent discoveries show that people lived in pithouse villages, produced pottery, and cultivated crops four thousand years ago, along the Santa Cruz River and its tributaries.

From around 300 B.C., the Hohokam culture thrived in the region. Remains of one of the pithouses of the Hohokam village were found within the walls of the later Spanish presidio. The inhabitants of this village suddenly declined during the fourteenth century and were replaced by probable Hohokam descendants – the Pima and Tohono O’odham. Eventually, these Native American cultures were joined by new arrivals: the Spanish, Mexican, and American colonists who have occupied the region during the past three centuries. There is strong evidence that the site of Tucson’s downtown has been almost continuously occupied by native peoples, Spaniards, Mexicans, and Americans for about four thousand years, what archaeologists call a “persistent place.”

The City of Tucson was incorporated in 1877 with a population of about 7,000, and an area of about two square miles. By 1882, the East-West rail connection through Tucson was completed, making Tucson a major link in the new transcontinental transportation system and a hub for mining, agriculture, and mercantile activity in southern Arizona. The City developed primarily north and east of the railroad, to take advantage of the gentle slope and fine views. Development west of downtown lagged due to the presence of the Santa Cruz River and the rough terrain of the Tucson Mountains.



Since the 1880s, the orientation of the rail lines through Tucson has set the general pattern of much of the City’s industrial development. This pattern was partially modified by the location of the new municipal airport (1941-1951), and the interstate highway (mid-40s to mid-60s). During the 1950s, the size of Tucson increased sevenfold due to postwar growth and large annexations.

Tucson has become the second largest city in the State of Arizona. New residents come to Tucson not only from elsewhere in the United States and from Mexico, but also from all over the world. The proximity of Mexico and the presence of the University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base are major factors in Tucson’s continuing attraction to residents from other countries, strengthening the international flavor of the community. More than 300 years after its founding as a mission site and outpost for Spain, the Old Pueblo retains much of its original vitality and has increased in cultural richness.

THE CENTURY TO COME

Census 2000 measured Tucson’s population and its characteristics at the beginning of the twenty-first century. By the close of this century, what changes will have taken place in and around the City? How will transportation, jobs, and the environment differ from what we see in Tucson today? We can only guess what changes technology and other advances will bring; however, there is no doubt that many of the changes that occur over the next hundred years will be influenced by today’s decisions and actions.

Within the documents in this series, we show trends and changes over time, and attempt to relate these changes to the everyday lives of Tucsonans. We also begin to establish how changes that have already taken place will



affect the City and its residents in the future. The best means for making wise decisions about our future is to understand how the community has changed, and how it is likely to change in the years to come. These data were compiled for the interest of Tucson's citizens and as background material to inform decisions made by the City's elected leaders.

WHEN USING THESE DOCUMENTS, KEEP IN MIND....

- Census data do not account for intangibles that affect quality of life. For example, the data may show that an area has low income and aging housing units. It will not show that an area's residents have strong ties to the community that result in an extensive network of support and resources for those in need. Therefore, the profiles of vibrant communities can appear bleak, and vice versa.
- Some changes, such as the increase of working women, may indicate continuation of a long-term trend that began several decades earlier. Others may reflect short-term events, such as decreased employment in the armed forces.
- The Census data do not account for crime statistics, health information, environmental concerns, and other factors that are considered important indicators of community well-being.
- While many of the changes during the decade may appear to be significant, it is important to remember that ten years is a relatively brief period in the life of the City.
- Many local changes echo national trends and issues, such as the evolution of smaller families and the increasing age of the population.
- Census data reflect a point in time and can be used to present a snapshot of Tucson in April, 2000. Most of the data in these documents were tabulated by the federal government and provided to cities and states during 2001 and 2002. Many of the statistics changed even before the release of the Census 2000 data.
- Most of the data in these documents apply to the area within the City of Tucson incorporated boundaries. However, "Tucson" means more than the corporate limits of the City to many people. Where appropriate, information has been provided for all residents of Pima County, 96 percent of whom are in the Tucson metropolitan area.
- The area of land within the limits of the City of Tucson increased by a quarter during the past decade, through the annexation of over forty square miles that were in unincorporated Pima County during the 1990 Census. Therefore, some changes recorded in the 2000 City of Tucson data reflect this geographic shift from one jurisdiction to another.
- For several topics, Census data from the nation, Pima County, and other sunbelt cities have been included to provide a perspective for the City of Tucson data. These cities – Phoenix, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; San Antonio, Texas; and Las Vegas, Nevada – were selected because of some similarity to Tucson and availability of data.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page No.
Growth Rates	<i>Tucson and Pima County Will Continue to Grow</i>	1
Median Age	<i>We are Growing Older</i>	2
Aging Trend	<i>We Will Continue to Grow Older</i>	3
Race and Ethnicity	<i>Tucson Has an Increasingly Diverse Cultural Mix</i>	5
Ancestry	<i>Many Tucsonans Identify With the Culture of Their Ancestors</i>	7
Educational Attainment	<i>Tucsonans are Becoming Better Educated</i>	8
People with Disabilities	<i>Older People are More Likely to Have Disabilities</i>	9
Grandparents as Caretakers	<i>Many Grandparents are Caretakers for Their Grandchildren</i>	10
Households and Families	<i>Households and Families Continue to Change</i>	11
Elderly Households	<i>Tucson's Elderly Households Follow the National Trend</i>	12
Unmarried Couples	<i>Unmarried Partners Form a Significant Number of Households</i>	13
Households with Children	<i>Living Arrangements for Young Tucsonans are Changing</i>	14
Housing Tenure	<i>Tucson's Owner-Occupancy Rate has Increased Slightly</i>	15
Housing Type	<i>Single-Family Homes Continue to be the Choice of Most Tucsonans</i>	16
Housing Conditions	<i>Housing Conditions Improved for Some Tucsonans</i>	17
Housing Age	<i>The Housing Stock Continues to Age</i>	18
Changing Addresses	<i>Tucsonans Change Their Addresses Frequently</i>	19
Housing Costs	<i>Paying for Housing Remains Difficult for Many Tucsonans</i>	20
Property Values	<i>Property Values Increased Faster than Monthly Housing Costs</i>	21
Income	<i>Our Incomes Generally Rose During the Decade, Though We Still Lag Behind the Nation</i>	22
Poverty	<i>Poverty Rates Declined During the Decade</i>	23
Transportation	<i>Most of Us Still Drive Alone if We Have a Car</i>	24
Labor Force	<i>A Smaller Proportion of Tucsonans are in the Work Force</i>	25
Employment Class	<i>The Private Sector is Still Tucson's Largest Employer</i>	26
Employment Industry	<i>More of Us Work for Service Industries Than Any Other Industry</i>	27
Conclusion	<i>More Changes Will Come – And Some are Already Happening</i>	28

TUCSON AND PIMA COUNTY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW



Tucson's population growth has been steady and significant over the last half century. Other sunbelt cities have experienced similar growth patterns. Population projections show that the City of Tucson is expected to grow from a population of 486,699 to 595,807 in 2010, assuming the City continues to annex land.

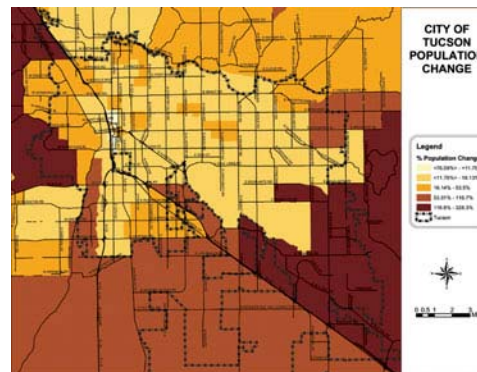
During the 1990s, other areas of Pima County grew more rapidly than did Tucson. A continuation of this pattern would result in the City having a shrinking percentage of County population. However, future growth on Tucson's southeast side is expected to offset this effect. This is significant because state shared revenues are disbursed based on the number of people living in incorporated jurisdictions.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Tucson and Pima County will continue to grow in population. Growth-related issues, many of which are already in the forefront, will become even more important. These issues include transportation and traffic congestion, water supply, density and urban sprawl, and environmental concerns. How we choose to deal with - or not deal with - these issues will be a major factor in determining the region's future.

[Population Estimates and Projections 1870 - 2050](#)

(Click on link above to open a two-page table.)



1990 - 2000 Population Change by 1990 Census Tracts

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page map.)

WE ARE GROWING OLDER

The median age in Tucson in 2000 was 32.1 years, up from 30.6 in 1990, and below the national average of 35.3. The Baby Boom generation is a huge generation whose members were born between 1946 and 1965. The median age for the U.S. will increase as Baby Boomers age, and will increase further due to the attractiveness of our community as a retirement destination.

Tucsonans over 65 years old increased by eleven percent during the decade. This group represents twelve percent of the City's population, similar to the national figure. The number of women 75 years and older increased by thirty percent during the decade, from 13,818 to 18,030.

The number of women age 85 and older grew by about 37 percent in the last decade, in both Tucson and the nation. The number of men in these age groups increased significantly, though elderly men number far fewer than elderly women.

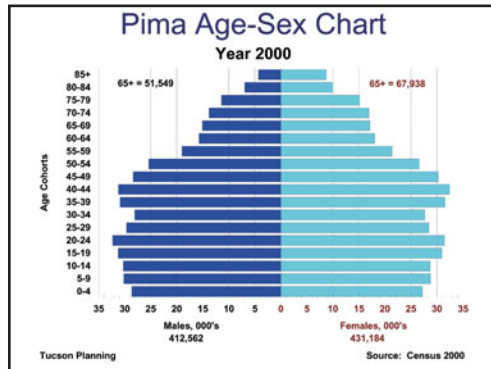


THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Barring any revolutionary change in immigration flows, Tucson and the nation will gradually become older, at least through the year 2030. More options for transitional housing, group homes, and nursing facilities will be needed. New forms of financial support for those living into their ninth and tenth decades may be needed as pensions are outlived. The healthcare industry will have to change to meet the medical needs of a large elderly population, and healthcare funding will have to be addressed.
- ✓ The aging of the population will affect even industries that are not directly associated with aging residents. For example, many workers will seek out employers that offer flexible work schedules, telecommuting, and other options that allow them to care for their aging parents.
- ✓ Currently, Pima County has about 3.7 working age people (age 20 to 64) able to support each person age 65 and older. By the time Baby Boomers, members of the huge generation born between 1946 and 1965, finish entering retirement in 2030 it is estimated that Pima County will have only 2.2 working age people able to support each older adult.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW OLDER

Population pyramids show the proportion of a community's residents by age and gender. Because the likelihood of annexation makes it difficult to predict Tucson's future age and gender breakdown, the information below focuses on Pima County.



**Pima Age-Sex Chart
Year 2000**
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

Following the Baby Bust is the Baby Boomlet, the children of the Boomers. The Boomlet is shown on the population pyramid as people age 6 to 23. This group, born between 1977 and 1994, represent a large generation as did their parents. Compared with state and national numbers, the Tucson area has a slightly higher proportion of people age 20 to 24, due to the influence of the University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Tucson will continue to have a disproportionately large number of people aged 20 to 39, due to the presence of the University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.
- ✓ The small size of the Baby Bust generation, the small generation whose members were born between 1966 and 1976, eased the need for new public facilities, such as schools, that was created by the Boomers. The small size of this generation will also affect the job market. As Boomers begin to retire in large numbers, fewer numbers of the Baby Bust generation will be available to fill the jobs. This effect should lessen as members of the Baby Boomlet complete their education and enter the workforce.

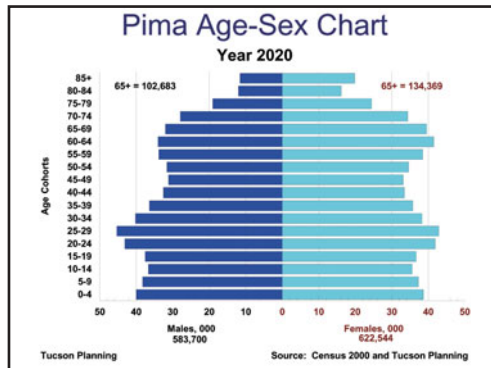
The first population pyramid represents Pima County in 2000. The narrow area at the top of the pyramid represents people born during the 1930s, or the "Depression Era," when birth rates were low.

The bulge in the middle of the chart represents the Baby Boom generation, born following World War II during a time of high birth rates. Boomers were born between 1946 and 1965, and were age 35 to 54 during Census 2000. This generation represents about a quarter of Pima County's population, and about a third of the nation's population. The aging of this huge generation is raising the median age of the U.S. population.

After the Baby Boom, lower birth rates from 1966 to 1976 resulted in the Baby Bust generation, which was age 24 to 34 during Census 2000.

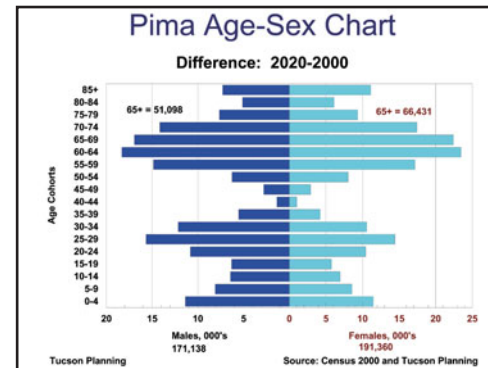
WE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW OLDER - Continued

The second population pyramid represents projections for Pima County for the year 2020. The striking feature of this chart is that it shows the aging of the Baby Boom generation. The number of elderly will continue to increase both in Pima County and nationally, reflecting the aging of the Baby Boom generation and medical advances that increase life expectancy. This chart also shows the disproportionate increase in the number of elderly women, a long-term national trend that is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.



**Pima Age-Sex Chart
Year 2020**
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

The third population pyramid shows the growth of each age group from 2000 to 2020. This chart indicates which age groups will have the largest changes in population in 2020. Baby Boomers will cause a huge increase in folks in their sixties. Members of the Baby Boomlet will join university students and military personnel to swell the ranks of those in their twenties and early thirties. The Baby Bust generation, in their late forties and early fifties, will barely be large enough to replace the Baby Boomers, even with twenty years' growth.



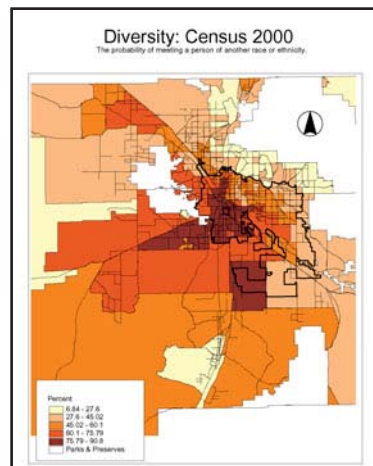
**Pima Age-Sex Chart
Difference: 2020-2000**
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

TUCSON HAS AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE CULTURAL MIX

Tucson has long been a city with a great diversity of races and cultures. While white, non-Hispanics are still the largest group (about 61 percent, compared to 75 percent nationally), the minority population has increased during the past decade. Hispanics are Tucson's largest minority group, not surprising for a community with historic roots in New Spain and the Republic of Mexico. In 2000, Tucson's Hispanic population was 35.7 percent, compared with about thirteen percent for the nation, forty percent for Albuquerque, and 59 percent for San Antonio.



Due to Tucson's proximity to Mexico, the City receives its largest number of Hispanic immigrants from that country. The number of people from Puerto Rico and Cuba doubled between 1990 and 2000, though numerically these groups are still very small. Hispanic people



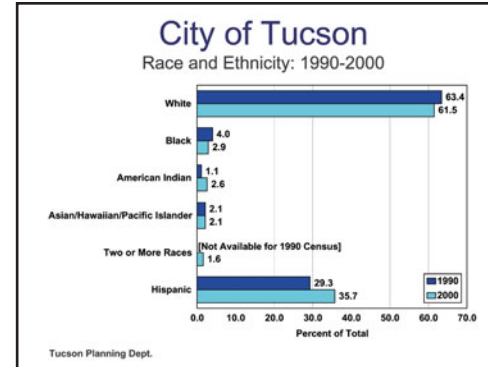
Diversity: Census 2000
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page map.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Newcomers arrive in Tucson daily, and will continue to do so. These new Tucsonans are not only from the United States and Mexico, but from South America, Central America, Asia, and all over the world.
- ✓ Tucson's growing diversity increases the need for public and private sector agencies to ensure that Tucson's minority population is well served and represented. Messages that do not take into account the values, customs, lifestyles, and beliefs of minority groups may fail to reach nearly half of Tucson's population.
- ✓ The City's Hispanic proportion will probably continue to increase in the years to come, due to continued immigration and the presence of larger, younger families in this group.
- ✓ People who self-identify as "Hispanic or Latino" are a diverse group of people who come from many countries and represent all age groups, economic sectors, and occupations. There is no single demographic profile that describes Hispanic people in Tucson.
- ✓ Typically, United States immigration policy is dependent on economic patterns: when the economy is strong, immigration is seen as favorable. When the economy weakens, so does support for immigration. In the future, national security concerns will also figure into the equation. Regardless of whether changes are made to national policy, Tucson will continue to receive both legal and illegal immigrants.

TUCSON HAS AN INCREASINGLY DIVERSE CULTURAL MIX - *Continued*

from countries other than Mexico, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, showed the highest percent increase. The number of people who reported that their origin was not one of these countries, rose from 7,918 to 25,897 during the decade, an increase of about 230 percent. This group consists mostly of those from Central America and South America.



City of Tucson
Race and Ethnicity:
1990 - 2000
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

The high growth of Asians in Tucson began during the 1980s. In 1980, 3,427 Tucsonans reported their race as Asian or Pacific Islander. That number jumped to 8,901 in 1990, representing an increase of about 160 percent. In 2000, 11,959 Tucsonans reported their race as Asian. Though changes to the race question in Census 2000 make it difficult to compare new data to that from previous decades, this increase shows that the growth trend continues. The new growth supplements the historically dominant Chinese population with newcomers from Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, and other Asian nations.

MANY TUCSONANS IDENTIFY WITH THE CULTURE OF THEIR ANCESTORS



Tucsonans tend to identify with the cultures they or their ancestors brought to this country. Many ancestries were well-represented in Tucson in 2000. Mexican was most frequently reported, by thirty percent of Tucsonans. Other leading ancestry groups were German (14%); Irish (10%); English (8%); Other Latino Groups (5%); and Italian and American (4% each).

About four percent of Tucsonans reported their ancestry as “American,” nearly double the proportion in 1990. While the number of Tucsonans reporting as “American” grew significantly, it remains lower than the national figure of about seven percent.

The largest ancestry groups by percent change from 1990 to 2000 were: French (341%); Swiss (326%); Norwegian (285%), Welsh (282%); and Scottish (268%). Although the percent change of these groups is very high, they represent relatively small population groups. Except for French, which accounts for 2.7 percent of Tucson’s population, each of these ancestry groups was reported by less than two percent of the City’s residents.

Ancestry Charts:

(Click on links below to open charts.)

[Ancestry Groups by Size](#)

and

[Ancestry Groups by Change](#)

and

[Ancestry Groups by Percent Change](#)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Along with racial and ethnic diversity, Tucson has a rich ancestral diversity that is celebrated during events such as Tucson Heritage Festival and the 4th Avenue Street Fair.
- ✓ The increasing number of residents reporting their ancestry as “American” shows that many people identify more with the culture of the United States than with the culture that their ancestors brought with them to this country. Tucson’s number is about half that of the national number. This reflects both the high number of recent immigrants who have settled in Tucson, and strength of the City’s Hispanic culture.
- ✓ In Census 2000 data, the question about “Ancestry” is distinguished from race and region of birth data because respondents could choose which ancestries they identified with, even if the respondent was born in the United States.
- ✓ When answering the ancestry question on the Census 2000 form, the respondent could choose one or more answers from a list, and/or could choose “Other Ancestry.” Because the list offered with the question contained mostly European ancestries, nearly half of Tucson’s respondents chose “Other Ancestry.” Therefore, we look at race data for Asian and Native American ancestries, and ethnicity for Latin American ancestries. Very limited data are available regarding ancestry for those from the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent, Oceania, and Africa.

TUCSONANS ARE BECOMING BETTER EDUCATED

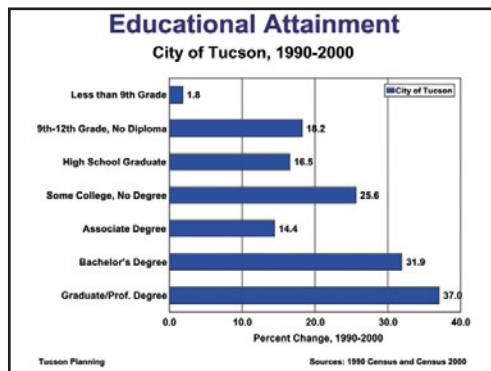


Education is an important element in the daily life of Tucsonans. Of the population over age three that was enrolled in school in 2000, ten percent was in pre-primary schools, 42 percent was in elementary and high school, and 36 percent was in college.

Overall, educational attainment increased during the decade: 80 percent of City residents 25 years and over had earned a high school diploma or higher, up from 79

percent in 1990, and equal to the national figure. Another favorable factor was that the percent of Tucsonans with less than 9th grade education decreased by about one and one-half percent. The proportion of the population leaving high school with no diploma showed little change. Percentages of Tucsonans with various levels of college education increased.

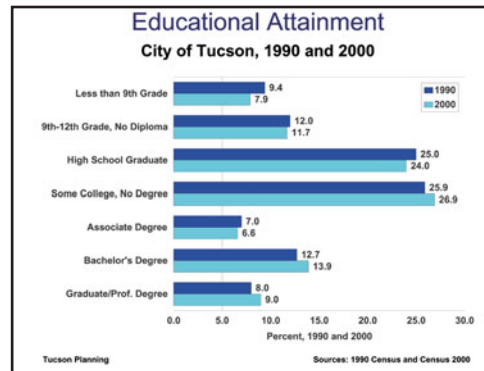
Approximately twenty percent of Tucson's population over 25 had less than a high school education in 2000; 24 percent had graduated from high school; 27 percent had some college; seven percent had earned an associate degree; and 23 percent had a bachelor's or graduate degree.



City of Tucson
Educational Attainment:
Percent Change 1990 - 2000
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Although educational attainment for the City is improving, these numbers may be misleading. Tucson's high number of university students and the personnel at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base can skew upward the numbers for high school diplomas and college-level education. It is important for Tucson to focus on keeping children in school and to encourage them to continue their education.
- ✓ As the "Baby Boomlet" generation finishes elementary and middle school during the coming decade, a drop in school enrollment numbers is expected. Such population waves generate fluctuating needs for school facilities. Decreases in school-age children create opportunities for joint-use and re-use of buildings and school yards to meet other community needs.

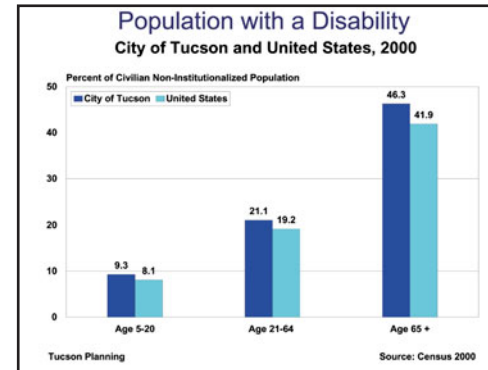


City of Tucson
Educational Attainment:
Percent 1990 & 2000
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

OLDER PEOPLE ARE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE DISABILITIES

Census 2000 was the first decennial census to provide detail on disabilities. The likelihood of having a disability increased with age. Of Tucsonans aged five to twenty years, nine percent had disabilities. Of those 21 to 64 years of age, 21 percent had disabilities. Forty-six percent of Tucsonans 65 and older had disabilities. Nationally, the proportion of people with disabilities was somewhat lower than in Tucson. In particular, the proportion of elderly with disabilities was lower, at 41.9 percent.

Of the 56,758 Tucsonans aged 21 to 64 who had disabilities, 55 percent were employed. Of the 212,796 people in this age group who did not have a disability, 76 percent were employed.



**City of Tucson - 2000
Population with a Disability**
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ The 1990 Census gathered limited information about people with disabilities. Because Census 2000 asked more detailed questions about a larger range of disabilities, comparisons with 1990 data are not meaningful.
- ✓ The likelihood of having a disability increases with age; those 65 years of age and over are most likely to have a disability. In light of the aging of the Baby Boom generation and increasing life expectancies, the City and indeed the nation can expect tremendous increases in the number of people with disabilities in the coming decades.

MANY GRANDPARENTS ARE CARETAKERS FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

The 1990 Census reported, by state, the number of children under eighteen who lived in their grandparents' households. In Arizona, about 5.7 percent of children lived with their grandparents, slightly higher than the national number of 5.5 percent. Of the fifty states, Arizona had the nineteenth highest proportion of children in the grandparents' homes. The 1990 Census did not, however, ask whether the grandparents were the primary caretakers of the grandchildren who lived with them.

Census 2000 was the first decennial census to report on grandparents as caretakers of grandchildren. This does not include grandparents who babysat their grandchildren on a regular basis; rather it refers to families in which the child lives in the home of the grandparent(s), who assumes most parental responsibilities toward that child. In 2000, 11,165 grandparents lived in a household with one or more own grandchildren. Forty-five percent of these grandparents assumed responsibility for the grandchildren with whom they lived. Nationally, about 42 percent of grandparents living with grandchildren assumed parental responsibilities.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

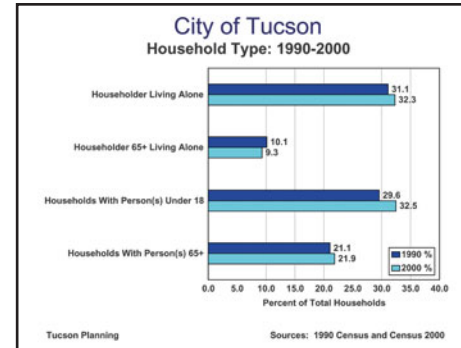
- ✓ Because the 1990 Census did not provide detailed data about grandparents as caretakers, it is not possible to know for certain whether there has been an increase, a decrease, or no change in the number of these households.
- ✓ Having grandparents in a parenting role raises concerns about the financial well-being of these families, which may operate on a fixed income. Also, medical coverage for the children may be difficult to obtain if the grandparents have little income or are no longer employed.
- ✓ The Census does not ask why grandparents are caring for grandchildren. This makes it difficult to know whether there is a need for services that may help keep parents with their children.
- ✓ Because Census 2000 gathered information only about the grandparents who live with grandchildren, the total number of all grandparents is unknown. Therefore, it is impossible to determine what percentage of grandparents are in this situation.

HOUSEHOLDS AND FAMILIES CONTINUE TO CHANGE

Since the first Census, the size of American households has been shrinking. In 1790, the average household had 5.8 persons. By 1900, 4.8 persons was average. Since then, households have steadily grown smaller. An increase in single parent families and one-person households during the decade continued the trend toward smaller family and household sizes. The average household size in the United States dropped slightly from 2.63 in 1990 to 2.59 in 2000. Tucson's average household size in 1990 was 2.42, and was unchanged in 2000.

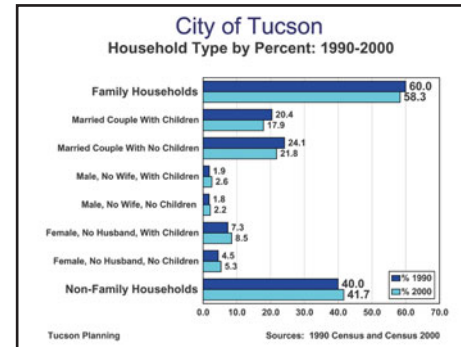
Household composition in Tucson reflects national trends. "Traditional" households with a married couple and children, dropped from 20 percent of Tucson households in 1990, to eighteen percent in 2000. Single moms with own children made up 7.3 percent of Tucson's households in 1990; in 2000, they increased slightly to 8.5 percent. Single dads with own children are also increasing, though they represent less than 3 percent of Tucson's households.

One-person households increased by 22 percent in Tucson, similar to the national increase. Households shared by non-relatives increased by about one-quarter in Tucson, less than the national increase of about one-third. Seventy percent of Tucson's households had no children.



City of Tucson
Household Type:
1990 - 2000

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)



City of Tucson
Household Type by Percent:
1990 - 2000

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

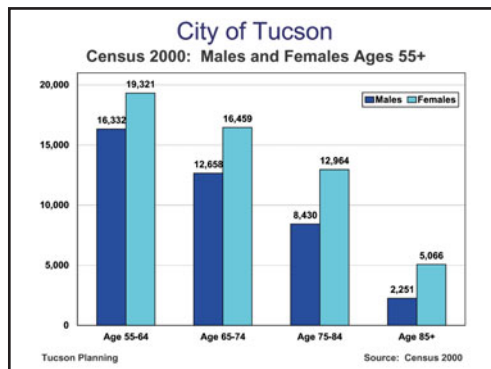
- ✓ Increasing numbers of single-parent families will precipitate a need for services such as educational programs that address the needs of both parents and children; convenient child care services at affordable cost; and access to affordable health care for all members of the family.
- ✓ An increase in single-person households, particularly during a time when much of our socializing is done via computer, may produce the need for opportunities for people to get involved in the community and connect with others. This is especially true of elderly people living alone.
- ✓ Because a relatively small percentage of Tucson's households have children at home, it may be difficult to rally support for school bonds. Other means of funding may have to be explored.

TUCSON'S ELDERLY HOUSEHOLDS FOLLOW THE NATIONAL TREND

In 2000, Tucson had 57,828 residents ages 65 and older. This group represented about twelve percent of the City's population, similar to the national figure. About sixty percent of elderly Tucsonans lived in family households, with a spouse, a child, or some other relative(s). Nearly 18,000 elderly people lived alone in the City in 2000; three-quarters of these were women. Both of these statistics echo the national trend.

Of elderly householders in Tucson, just over three-quarters own the home in which they live.

About four percent of Tucsonans age 65 and over live in group quarters, which include personal care homes, hospices, homes for the physically handicapped, wards for the chronically ill, and other residential settings.



**City of Tucson
Census 2000: Males and
Females 55+**
(Click on the thumbnail to the
left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Support services, new medical techniques, and innovative forms of housing will allow a growing number of elderly Tucsonans to continue to be independent.
- ✓ In order to provide innovative housing for the elderly, development codes and standards may need to be updated.
- ✓ While it is desirable to maintain the independence of Tucson's elderly residents, it is important to ensure that independent living does not lead to isolation, particularly among those living alone.

UNMARRIED PARTNERS FORM A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

About seven percent, or 13,638, of Tucson's householders reported that they shared their household with an unmarried partner. In the 1990 Census, unmarried partners were not reported. Instead, they were included in the "Nonrelative" category, which included such relationships as roommates and boarders. Therefore, it is not known whether the proportion of unmarried partners has increased, decreased, or remained the same.

Of Tucson's unmarried household partners, ten percent were same-sex couples. Of these, 649 households were male couples, while 773 households were female couples. As with opposite-sex couples, the 1990 Census did not report on same-sex couples sharing a household; thus

there is not enough data to determine the trend. It is important to note that the Census does not ask about sexual orientation, and that the count of same-sex unmarried partner householders is **not** a count of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered. The figures do not include people in this demographic who are unattached or not living with their partners, or who chose to self-identify as having a relationship other than "unmarried partner."



Click [here](#) to link to an HTML document titled: **"Technical Note on Same-Sex Unmarried Partner Data From the 1990 and 2000 Censuses"** by the U.S. Census Bureau.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ The number of householders reporting that they share their homes with same-sex partners may be affected, now and in the future, by perceptions about the Census. Householders who feel the Census infringes on their privacy may choose not to identify themselves as part of a same-sex couple. Others may see the Census as an opportunity to make a statement or gain political clout.
- ✓ Unmarried partners sharing a household may find that they are unable to add their partners and/or their partner's children as dependents to employer-funded healthcare plans. They may also need specialized legal services due to the complexity of laws regarding unmarried couples.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUNG TUCSONANS ARE CHANGING

The Census Bureau definition of “own children” is not limited to children living with both biological parents, but also includes those living with a biological parent and a step-parent, and with adoptive parents. In Tucson, 56 percent of own children lived in married-couple households in 2000, a decrease from 62 percent in 1990. Nationally, this group decreased from seventy percent in 1990 to 66 percent in 2000. This group of children is not limited to those living with both biological parents, but also includes those living with a biological parent and a step-parent, and with adoptive parents.



About a third of Tucson's children lived with one parent, a higher proportion than 1990's 27 percent. The national figure was about 23 percent in 2000, up from seventeen percent in 1990. During the 1990s, the share of Tucson children living with single moms increased from 22 to 24 percent, while nationally this number hovered near seventeen percent in both 1990 and 2000. The share of

Tucson children living with single dads increased from five to seven percent over the decade, while the national number increased from about three to five percent.

Ten percent of Tucson's children lived with relatives other than a parent. Of these children, three-quarters lived with their grandparent(s); these numbers are similar to national numbers. In 1990, seven percent of Tucson's children lived with relatives other than a parent; 86 percent of them lived with grandparents.



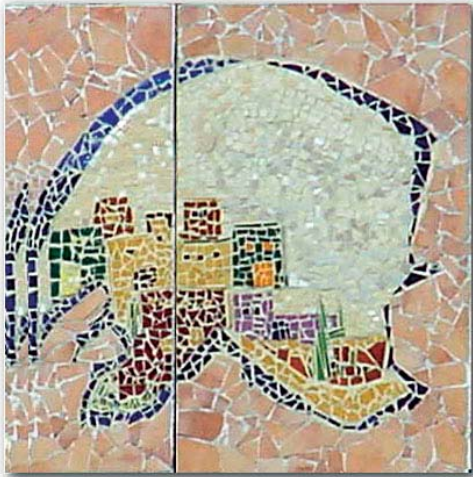
In 2000, about 800 children in Tucson did not live in households, but in group quarters. About three-quarters of these children lived in non-institutionalized settings, such as group homes. The remaining one-quarter resided in institutions. The majority of children living in group quarters – both institutionalized and non-institutionalized – were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Children in single-parent families have an increased risk of living in poverty.
- ✓ The Census Bureau has begun reporting on children who live with their grandparents. In the coming decades, this will help answer questions about how many children live with grandparents, whether they are at increased risk for poverty, and whether children of a certain age group are most affected.

TUCSON'S OWNER-OCCUPANCY RATE HAS INCREASED SLIGHTLY

Home ownership was not always the norm in this country; only 44 percent of households were purchasing their homes in 1940. After World War II, however, there was a national push through federal programs to assist families in what has become the “American Dream:”



home ownership complete with a wide variety of consumer goods. By 1980, homeownership in the United States had reached 65 percent, and has remained stable for the last twenty years.

In 1980, Tucson homeownership was sixty percent. During the early- to mid-80s, tax incentives encouraged the building of apartments. This construction boom, along with other factors such as the annexation of Davis-

Monthan Air Force Base and a high migration rate, resulted in a drop to 51 percent owner occupancy by 1990. In 2000, 53 percent of Tucson's homes were owner-occupied. In comparison, the 2000 homeownership rate for the U.S. was 66.2 percent; for Phoenix, 60.7 percent; for Albuquerque, 60.4 percent; for San Antonio, 58.1 percent; and for Las Vegas, 59.1 percent.

The 64 percent increase in owner-occupied housing units over the decade is contrasted with a 35 percent increase in renter-occupied units. In Tucson, homeowners have increased nearly twice as fast as renters have. This may be due to a number of factors, including a drop in new apartment construction after the mid-eighties boom, and the prosperous economy of the late 1990s.

The City had a total of 209,609 housing units at the time of Census 2000, up from 183,338 units in 1990. Nearly 92 percent of these units were occupied, leaving about eight percent vacant. Vacant units include those used by seasonal residents, which were deemed vacant during the census count.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ A wide range of housing opportunities is needed to accommodate Tucson's diverse and growing population. Single-family homes, manufactured and mobile homes, duplexes, townhomes, and apartments, in a spectrum of sizes and locations are needed.
- ✓ In order to continue the trend of increasing home-ownership in Tucson, affordable housing must be available.

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES CONTINUE TO BE THE CHOICE OF MOST TUCSONANS

The total number of housing units in Tucson grew from 183,338 in 1990 to 209,792 in 2000, a fourteen percent increase during the decade.

Though average household size remained constant over the decade, home sizes grew. Proportionally, the largest increases were in homes that had seven or more rooms. In the City, the number of these units doubled during the decade, though they represent only about fourteen percent of all housing units.

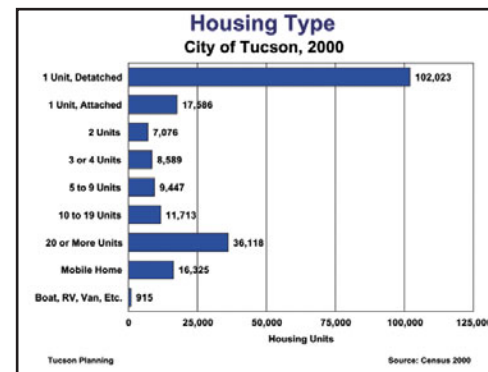


This increase pushed the average number of rooms from 4.3 in 1990 to 4.5 in 2000. The number of smaller units also increased, though at a slower pace: one- and two-room units increased by 38 and 24 percent respectively from 1990 to 2000.

The housing types that experienced the greatest growth during the decade were single-family detached (22.7%), complexes with five to nine units (21.0%), and complexes with three or four units (20.4%).

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

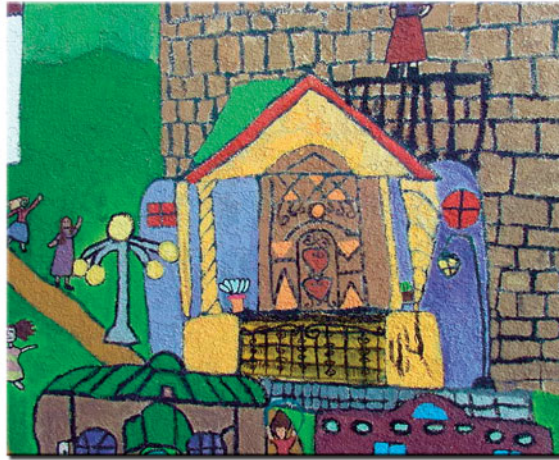
- ✓ The Census asks respondents about the number of rooms in their housing unit, but does not ask about the square footage of the home. Therefore, the words “large” and “small” in this context refers only to the number of rooms. The Census does not provide information on the square footage, though other sources show that the square footage of new single family homes is on the rise.



**City of Tucson
Housing Type**
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

HOUSING CONDITIONS IMPROVED FOR SOME TUCSONANS

Several factors are used by the Census Bureau to assess housing condition, including plumbing and kitchen facilities. In Tucson, 0.5 percent of units lacked complete plumbing and 0.7 percent of units lacked complete kitchen facilities. The City of Tucson had a larger increase in the number of units lacking these facilities than did Pima County. This indicates that much of the City's increase resulted from annexation of such units. The proportion of Tucson housing units that lack complete plumbing or kitchen facilities is similar to the proportion of U.S. households.



2000. "Crowded" described about six percent of housing units nationally.

Census 2000 gathered information on the availability of a telephone and an automobile, as relevant to household isolation. Tucson experienced a 47 percent decrease in households with no telephone available. In 2000, three percent of occupied housing units had no telephones, down from seven percent in 1990. Nationally, the 2000 proportion was 2.4 percent.

Another measure of housing condition used by the Census Bureau is "crowded," defined as more than one person per room. This condition increased in Tucson in the decade, from just over seven percent in 1990 to about nine percent in

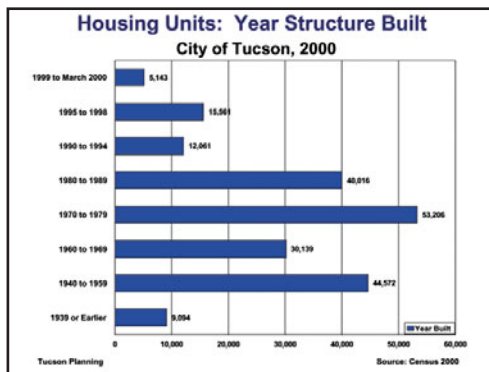
Tucson experienced little change in the proportion of households with no vehicle available during the decade. About twelve percent of Tucson's occupied housing units had no vehicle available, compared to about ten percent for the nation.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Nearly one in ten housing units in Tucson is considered crowded. This is an indication of a need for affordable housing units in a range of sizes and types.
- ✓ That nearly 23,000 occupied housing units had no vehicle available demonstrates the importance of alternate modes of transportation, including public transit.
- ✓ Ironically, while the number of householders living alone has increased, so too has the number of crowded housing units. There are several possible causes for this phenomenon. It may be that the increased proportion of smaller units has led to a shortage of larger units; that smaller units are the only ones that are affordable to some large families; or that people who cannot find affordable housing are "doubling up" with friends or relatives.

THE HOUSING STOCK CONTINUES TO AGE

As part of the post World War II boom, large numbers of houses were built in Tucson through the 1950s. In some cases, houses were constructed quickly to meet market demands, and do not meet today's building standards. The median age of a housing unit in the City in 1990 was 19 years; in 2000 it was about 29 years. A quarter of Tucson's housing units were built before 1960, and two-thirds were built before 1980.



**City of Tucson 2000
Housing Units: Year
Structure Built**

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

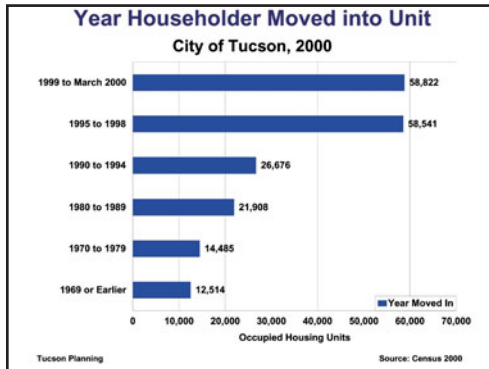
- ✓ While housing conditions have improved this decade, a significant portion of the City's housing inventory will require rehabilitation efforts in the next twenty years. In the future, some areas of the City may face major housing rehabilitation needs.
- ✓ Although some residential areas may need rehabilitation in the future, housing units in many parts of the City have been well maintained. The City also has a large supply of housing units that are relatively new. This presents the opportunity for housing resources to be conserved so as to avoid the need for major rehabilitation projects in such areas.

TUCSONANS CHANGE THEIR ADDRESSES FREQUENTLY

Tucson has a core of long-term residents together with a large segment of the population that is ever-in-motion. Nearly a third of all Tucson residents had lived in their current home for less than fifteen months. For the U.S., twenty percent of residents reported this characteristic. About a quarter of Tucson's population had lived in their present home for more than ten years. Only fourteen percent of Tucsonans had resided in their current homes for more than 20 years, compared with 22 percent for the nation.

About 60 percent of Tucson's residents had lived in their homes for a period of five years or less, compared with about 50 percent for the nation. For other Western Sunbelt cities, the five-year-or-less figures were 54 percent in San Antonio, 57 percent in Albuquerque, and 70 percent in Las Vegas.

About 38 percent of Tucson's residents were born in Arizona. About 46 percent were born in another state, and 14 percent were born in another country. Of those who were born in another country, nearly three-quarters hail from Latin America.



**City of Tucson 2000
Year Householder Moved
into Unit**
(Click on the thumbnail to the
left to open a full-page chart.)

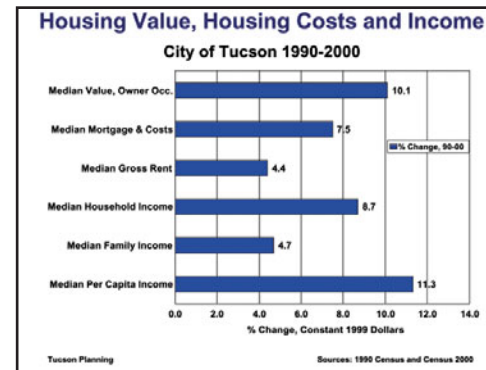
THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ It is difficult to assess and serve the needs of frequent movers. It can also be a challenge to engage them in community issues, as they may not feel they have a stake in the future of the neighborhood or community.
- ✓ The proximity of Mexico and the presence of the University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base are major factors in Tucson's continuing attraction to residents from other countries, strengthening the international flavor of this community.
- ✓ The high level of mobility of Tucsonans is typical of Western Sunbelt cities. Students attending the University of Arizona, together with workers at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, winter visitors, and job seekers from the North and East create a high turnover rate for Tucson housing units.
- ✓ While much of the mobility is the result of newcomers from elsewhere in the state or nation, movement within Pima County is also very high. Renters, in particular, demonstrated frequent moving patterns.

PAYING FOR HOUSING REMAINS DIFFICULT FOR MANY TUCSONANS

Of Tucson housing units, 103,056 were owner-occupied in 2000, an increase of 64 percent in the decade. About half of Tucson homeowners paid less than twenty percent of their monthly income for housing. However, many 2000 homeowners were paying a larger percentage of their income for housing than in 1990. About eighteen percent of Tucson homeowners paid 35 percent or more of their income for their mortgage and associated costs.

For Tucson renters, paying for housing is more difficult: about 35 percent of Tucson renters paid 35 percent or more of their household income for rent in 2000. This represents an improvement from 1990, when 38 percent of renters were in this situation. The median contract rent in Tucson in 2000 was \$516, up from \$494 in 1990 (in constant 1999 dollars). For the nation, the increase in median contract rent was more dramatic: \$602 in 2000, up from \$490 in 1990 (in constant 1999 dollars).



City of Tucson Housing Value, Housing Costs and Income 1990 - 2000

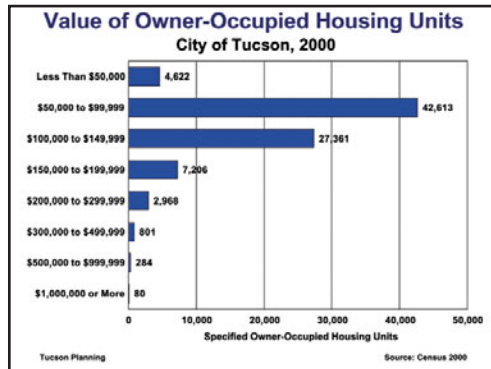
(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Affordable housing for Tucsonans can be achieved through both lower housing costs and higher income levels.
- ✓ Households paying more than 35 percent of their income for housing may have to cut back on other essentials, such as nutrition, healthcare, or child care, in order to pay for their housing.
- ✓ Housing costs expressed as a percentage of total household income provide a measure of housing affordability. The Census Bureau defines housing costs for homeowners as the sum of the mortgage payment, property taxes, insurance, and utility costs. According to most mortgage institutions, housing costs create a financial burden when they exceed 35 percent of monthly household income.

PROPERTY VALUES INCREASED FASTER THAN MONTHLY HOUSING COSTS

The median value of an owner-occupied house in Tucson rose from \$87,436* in 1990 to \$96,300 in 2000, up about ten percent. By comparison, the median value of a home in Pima County rose from \$99,759 in 1990 to \$114,600 in 2000, up fifteen percent. Nationally, the median value of owner-occupied, single family houses increased from \$103,691 in 1990 to \$119,600 in 2000, an increase of fifteen percent.



**City of Tucson 2000
Value of Owner-occupied
Housing Units**
(Click on the thumbnail to the
left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ An increase in residential property values means that the homeowner's investment has appreciated in value. Along with the appreciation of value comes an increase in property taxes.
- ✓ Mortgage costs rose at a pace similar to the rise in household income. However, family income rose at a slower pace, meaning that that purchasing a home is becoming more difficult for low and middle income families.

*All currency in this document is in constant 1999 dollars.

OUR INCOMES GENERALLY ROSE DURING THE DECADE, THOUGH WE STILL LAG BEHIND THE NATION

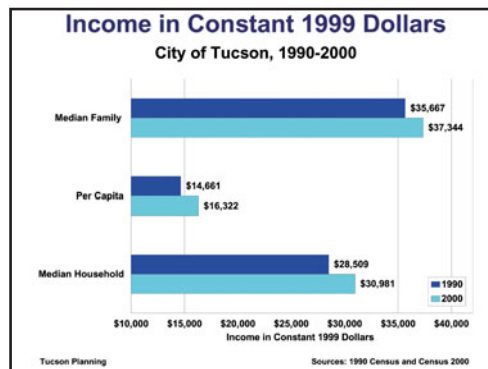
Census Bureau income data is measured for families, households, and per capita. After adjusting for inflation, nearly all types of income increased during the decade, except in households with public assistance income.

Adjusted for inflation, Tucson household incomes increased in the decade by almost nine percent, to a median income of \$30,981 per household. This number still lags far below the national median household income of \$41,994. Tucson's family income increased by almost five percent during the decade, from \$35,667 in 1990 to \$37,344 in 2000 (constant 1999 dollars); again, this figure is lower than the national family median of \$50,046.

Median earnings for full-time, year-round workers differ for men and women. For Tucson men, median earnings were \$28,548. For Tucson women, median earnings were \$23,086, a difference of nearly \$5,500. Nationally, the gap was much wider: median earnings for men were nearly \$10,000 higher than median earnings for women.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Although many Tucsonans are earning more money than they were a decade ago, incomes remain low in comparison to much of the nation.
- ✓ Household and family income increases just about kept pace with increases in rent and mortgage costs. This means that, although many Tucsonans have managed to keep their situation from declining, they have not been able to improve from where they were in 1990.



City of Tucson - Income in Constant 1999 Dollars: 1990 - 2000:

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

POVERTY RATES DECLINED DURING THE DECADE

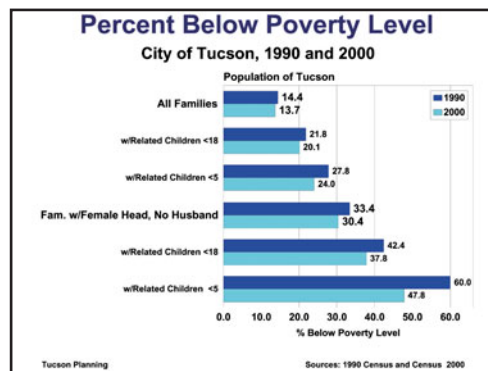
In 2000, a smaller proportion of Tucsonans lived in poverty than in 1990. The Census Bureau measures poverty for several “types” of individuals: families; families with children of various age groups; single mothers and their families; individuals; the elderly; and children. In Tucson, the poverty rate for all of these groups improved.

In some cases, the improvement was modest. For example, the poverty rate for individuals over age 65 dropped from 12.1 percent in 1990 to 11.0 percent in 2000. However, some groups experienced a more dramatic change. In particular, single females with related children under age five experienced a drop from 60.0 percent living in poverty in 1990 to 47.8 percent in 2000.

Although the proportion of Tucsonans living in poverty decreased, the City’s rapid population growth means that a greater number of people are in poverty. To illustrate, in 1990 Tucson had 97,802 families. Of those, 14,051 were in poverty, for a family poverty rate of 14.4 percent. In 2000 Tucson had 112,515 families, of which 15,525 were in poverty. Although nearly 1,500 more families were in poverty in 2000, the rate decreases to 13.7 percent because of the greater proportional increase in total families.

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ According to the Census Bureau, poverty status is derived from a nutritionally adequate economy food plan, designed in 1961 by the Department of Agriculture. At that time, a survey of food consumption by families of three or more persons determined that one third of their income was spent on food. Thus, the Census Bureau determines the poverty threshold based on three times the cost of the economy food plan.
- ✓ While the drop in poverty rates is very good news for Tucson, more improvement is needed. The City’s rapid population growth means that although the poverty rate decreased, a greater number of people are in poverty than in 1990.
- ✓ Tucson’s children – especially young children – and the households in which they live are more likely than any other group to experience poverty.



City of Tucson Percent Below Poverty Level 1990 and 2000:

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

MOST OF US STILL DRIVE ALONE IF WE HAVE A CAR

The love affair between people and their cars continues: driving alone to work was even more popular in 2000 than ten years earlier, and was the choice of about 71 percent of the City's workers aged sixteen and older. This was up from 70 percent in 1990, and 65 percent in 1980. By comparison, three-quarters of U.S. commuters drove alone.



The selection of "alternate modes" of transportation to work increased slightly in Tucson. The shares of workers using carpools and working at home increased somewhat. A slightly smaller share of commuters used buses; public transportation was the choice of about 3.5 percent of Tucsonans.

At least one car was a possession of 88 percent of Tucson's occupied households in 2000. The remaining twelve percent of households were without any vehicle, equal to the 1990 figure, and slightly higher than 1980's share of 10 percent. These households are largely dependent on public transportation alternatives.

The average time it took to get to work in 2000 was 21.6 minutes, almost two minutes longer than a decade earlier. The average commute time in the U.S. was about 25.5 minutes.

City of Tucson Means of Transportation to Work Charts:

(Click on links below to open charts.)

[1990 and 2000 Change](#)

and

[1990 - 2000 Percent Change](#)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Since World War II, suburban lifestyles in sunbelt cities have been supported by a supply of comparatively cheap roads, cheap gasoline, and affordable private vehicles. Despite the possibility of increased costs of all of the above, the taste for private vehicles continues.
- ✓ Future land use patterns and transportation modes will determine tomorrow's roadway needs.
- ✓ Different travel patterns have emerged: the popular east-west commute pattern of an earlier Tucson has been supplemented by a north-south pattern, responding to new residential development located in the north and northwest parts of the metropolitan area.
- ✓ Tucson's low population density, combined with the diversity of travel patterns, means that providing efficient, cost-effective public transportation is a challenge

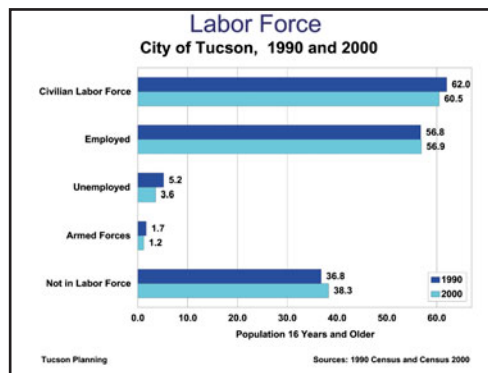
A SMALLER PROPORTION OF TUCSONANS ARE IN THE WORK FORCE

According to the Census Bureau, the labor force is comprised of those who are employed, and those who are unemployed and actively seeking work. In 2000, the number of employed Tucsonans aged 16 years and over showed a sixteen percent increase over 1990. There were 216,006 City residents employed at the time of the 2000 Census, representing 56.9 percent of the City's population aged 16 years and over.

Labor force participation of Tucson women has steadily grown. The 1960 Census showed that about a third of Tucson's women participated in the labor force, and the following two decades saw increases. In the last decade, the number changed little. In 1990, 56.6 percent of Tucson women over the age of sixteen participated in the labor force; in 2000 the number dropped slightly to 55.7 percent.

While the total increase in the City's population age sixteen and over was twenty percent, the labor force increased only about sixteen percent, indicating that a smaller proportion of the population was working or seeking work.

The rate of unemployment dropped from 5.2 percent in 1990 to 3.6 percent in 2000.



THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ The long-term trend in increased labor force participation by females represents both greater opportunities for women and greater need for their contributions to household income.
- ✓ Although the trend of increasing numbers of female workers is expected to continue, the proportion of the female population in the labor force may remain stable in the future as boomer women begin to retire. The growing number of women who live into their eighth, ninth, and tenth decades may also affect the proportions.
- ✓ The percentage of Tucsonans in the labor force may continue to fall as the huge Baby Boom generation begins to retire. Tucson's high rate of immigration may also contribute to this trend, as immigrants tend to have higher fertility rates than women born in this country.

City of Tucson Labor Force 1990 and 2000

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

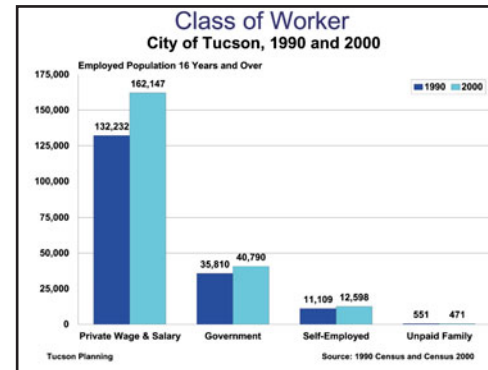
THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS STILL TUCSON'S LARGEST EMPLOYER

“Class of Worker” categorizes workers according to the type of ownership of the employing organization: Private, Government, Self-Employed, and Unpaid Family Workers. During the 1990s, little changed in the distribution of employees among these classes.

Private wage-salary positions employed three-quarters of Tucson’s employed population sixteen years of age and greater. Slightly less than a fifth of Tucson’s workers were employed by government agencies. Self-employed people accounted for about six percent of the workers. Unpaid family workers, who numbered less than five hundred in 2000, made up about 0.2 percent. All of these proportions are within two percent of the corresponding 1990 proportions.

“Occupation of Work” describes the kind of work the person does on the job, such as Sales, Machine Operator, or Technician.

Two occupations describe sixty percent of Tucson workers: Management, Professional and Related Occupations (32.0%); and Sales and Office Occupations (28.2%). The remaining occupations were distributed as follows: Service, 19.1%; Construction, Extraction and Maintenance, 10.9%; Production, Transportation, and Materials Moving, 9.6%; Farming, Fishing, and Forestry, 0.2%.



City of Tucson Class of Worker 1990 and 2000

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Because the Occupation of Work categories were revised prior to Census 2000, the numbers cannot be compared accurately with the 1990 Census data. Other sources, such as studies from the University of Arizona and Arizona Department of Economic Security suggest that professional and service occupations are increasing while mining and farming occupations are decreasing.

MORE OF US WORK FOR SERVICE INDUSTRIES THAN ANY OTHER INDUSTRY

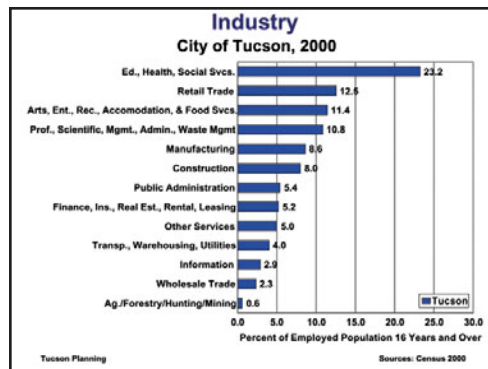
“Industry” of work relates to the kind of business conducted by a person’s employing organization, such as Manufacturing, Construction, and Retail Trade. Since 1990, the Census Bureau modified many of the industry categories. Therefore, it is difficult to determine whether employment increased or decreased in many of the sectors.

In 2000, the four industry sectors employing the largest proportion of the employed civilian population 16 years and older in 2000 were: Educational, Health, and Social Services (23.2%), Retail Trade (12.5%); Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation, and Food Services (11.4%); and Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services (10.8%). The other industry sectors each accounted for less than ten percent.

The general breakdown of industry representation in Tucson is similar to that of the United States as a whole. However, Tucson has significantly less representation by the manufacturing sector (8.6%) compared to the nation (14.1%).

THE START OF A NEW CENTURY

- ✓ Employment in the Education, Health, and Social Services industry accounts for nearly a quarter of Tucsonans’ employment. Combined with other service industries (such as the Professional, Scientific, Management, Administrative, and Waste Management Services), the proportion is even higher.



City of Tucson, 2000 Industry

(Click on the thumbnail to the left to open a full-page chart.)

MORE CHANGES WILL COME - AND SOME ARE ALREADY HAPPENING

This series of documents has touched on some of the highlights from Census 2000 regarding Tucson and its residents. It is interesting to reflect on the City's changes in the last ten years, and challenging to predict changes that may occur in the next decade.

In many ways, Tucson has followed national trends during the 1990s: the average age of the population of the United States is growing older, just as it is in Tucson and in Arizona. Traditional families are becoming fewer and working moms are more commonplace everywhere. Many new job opportunities in Tucson are in service industries rather than in manufacturing or other primary industries, as is true in the rest of the country.

But in other ways, Tucson was unique during the decade. Its population grew at a higher rate than the national rate. Tucson is more ethnically diverse, with Hispanic proportion three times larger than the nation's. There is a higher proportion of folks 65 years and older. Tucsonans move more frequently, and are more likely to rent housing than are residents in most of the United States. A greater proportion of Tucsonans has college degrees. And while income levels are lower than the country's average, so too is the cost of housing.

However, these documents present a picture of a Tucson that is no longer accurate: the Census was completed in April of 2000, over two years ago. Changes are constantly taking place, and the picture of Tucson in April of 2000 was very different than that of today. However, long-term trends help predict what changes will occur. There are almost certainly more people, and the average age has increased slightly. The workforce is larger, and probably includes more women. Other characteristics

are harder to predict, but hopefully incomes and educational levels are higher, and the average commute still takes about 22 minutes.

Many forces will help to shape the next decade. Some are external to the City, such as national and global economic factors. But to a large extent, the City's future will be determined locally, by the choices of residents, the decisions of community leaders, and the commitment of every citizen. The results of the 2010 Census will be a reflection of the decisions that are being made today.

